



Protect Penalty Rates

Visit your candidate guide



Protect
penalty rates.

save our weekend

www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au

**This guide will take you
through what you need to do
to visit your candidate in 6 easy steps.**

**Remember if you are having difficulty at any time,
send us an email at info@protectpenaltyrates.org.au
- we're here to give you the support you need to
make sure your visit is a success.**

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STEP 1:

Who's my Federal candidate?

Go to www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates and check who your Federal candidate is using our quick and easy tool. Simply enter your postcode to find the name of your electorate, the name of your MP, the party s/he belongs to and their contact details.



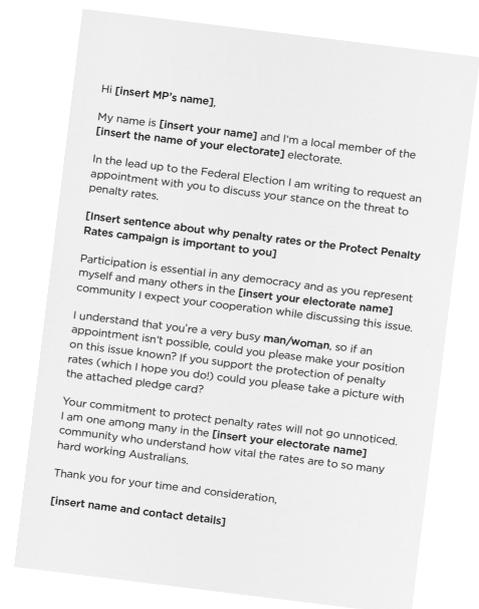
STEP 2:

Contact your candidate's office.

Email or write to your candidate – you can find a sample letter at www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates

Your email/letter should:

- **Introduce** yourself.
- **Explain** why the Protect Penalty Rates campaign is important to you.
- **Highlight** how you/your family and many others in the electorate expect the Federal Government to protect penalty rates.
- **Ask your candidate for an appointment** to discuss the protection of penalty rates and/or seek a written commitment from your candidate that they will actively support the Protect Penalty Rates campaign.



STEP 3:

Follow-up phone call to your candidate

Follow up your email/letter to your candidate with a phone call. You will probably speak to the office manager or personal assistant.

Request a meeting to discuss the protection of penalty rates with your candidate. Mention that you may discuss this important issue with your local paper/radio/TV. When your candidate appointment is secured, make sure you get written confirmation.



STEP 4:

Get Ready

Don't forget your pledge card!



Before your meeting here are a few things you can do to be ready.

1. **Think about what you'll say** – take a few notes and tell your story to someone else to practice.
2. **Make sure you have a Protect Penalty Rates Pledge card** – you can download and print one out here www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates

3. **We can help you get local media coverage before and after your visit if you want it.** Drop us a line at info@protectpenaltyrates.org.au to advise us of what you need.

4. **Want to arrange media coverage yourself?** Go for it! Find a draft media release that you can download, add your details and then send to your local newspaper, TV station or radio broadcaster newsroom here:

www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates



STEP 5:

At your meeting with the candidate

Arrive on time, take your meeting confirmation with you and be prepared. Take some information from the Protect Penalty Rates website with you: www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au

- 1. Time limit** – ask the candidate how much time they have available (e.g. 30 mins).
- 2. Introduction** – “Thank you for making time to see me/us. As supporters of the Protect Penalty Rates campaign, we are here because we want to make sure the current penalty rates are protected.”
- 3. Share your story with your MP.** Let them know why penalty rates are important to you and explain how removing them would impact you. You could even let them know what penalty rates are currently enabling you to do.
- 4. Ask your candidate to support** the campaign by signing the Protect Penalty Rates petition and appearing in a photo.

Explain the petition – “The Protect Penalty Rates petition calls on MPs to remove any of the current penalty rates in Australia.”
- 5. Take some photos** of your candidate holding a sign, pledging to Protect Penalty Rates – and jump in the photo too!
- 6. Offer your sincere thanks** for your candidate’s interest and that you will be in touch again as the campaign progresses.

Bring these things:

- Information from the website www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates
- Your Protect Penalty Rates Pledge card.
- Your smartphone or camera to get a photo of your candidate (with you in the photo too if you like!) holding a sign, pledging to Protect Penalty Rates. This photo is really important – it will make sure we can hold your candidate to their promise to protect penalty rates.



Handy Hints

Be persistent, polite and positive. Let your candidate know that they have the ability to protect penalty rates.

- While it is important to be positive, it is also important not to sugar coat your views. Explain simply and directly your own experience and why protecting penalty rates is important to you. Make it clear that issues such as this affect the way you consider your vote.
- Politely tell your candidate that that you expect him/her to represent your views. Remember you are an important person – you live in their electorate and they are there to represent you.
- What if your candidate won’t support the campaign? Explain politely that MPs from all over Australia are being approached to support the campaign and that you are really disappointed they won’t protect penalty rates. As soon as you’re back from your meeting, email us at info@protectpenaltyrates.org.au and we’ll make sure the local media knows what happened.

STEP 6:

After your meeting

Your job is done – well, almost done! Now you need to let us know how your meeting went and make sure we've recorded your candidate's support – so we can hold our politicians to their pledge to protect penalty rates.

Here's what you need to do:

- 1 Fill out the candidate visit report-back form on the website** – find it here:
www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates
- 2 Upload your photo** – the place to do this is at the bottom of the report back form on the website. We'll include the photo on the website in the candidate gallery
www.protectpenaltyrates.org.au/candidates
- 3 Get your local media** to run a story. Let us know if you want us to help you get media coverage of your visit by sending us an email at info@protectpenaltyrates.org.au.
- 4 Congratulate yourself** – you did it!

What else can i do?



Tell your friends/ members/ contacts about the campaign.



Like our Facebook page [link]



Share links to the Protect Penalty Rates campaign on your website/ social media



Thanks

**for taking action
to protect
penalty rates.**